

Counseling Services and Juvenile Delinquent Behaviors among Secondary School Students, in St. Kizito High School Namugongo, Wakiso-Uganda.

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Abstract

Background:

The study was carried out on “Counseling Services and Juvenile Delinquent Behaviors among Secondary School Students, in St. Kizito High School.” Specific study objectives were; to establish the level of counseling services, to determine the level of juvenile delinquent behavior among students, and to examine the relationship between guidance/counseling services and juvenile delinquent behavior among students in St. Kizito High School Namugongo.

Methodology:

Descriptive and correlation research designs guided by both quantitative and qualitative data collection approaches were used. Data was gathered randomly from 133 (100% response rate) students of St. Kizito High School through a questionnaire and 2 (key informants with an interview guide).

Results:

Generally, objective one results indicate a moderate aggregate mean of 3.22 and standard deviation of 0.799 which imply that there is a moderate level of counseling services in St. Kizito High School Namugongo. Generally, objective two results indicate a high grand mean of 3.43 and standard deviation of 0.74 which imply that there is a high level of juvenile delinquent behavior among students of St. Kizito High School. Generally, the results indicate that there is a significant relationship between peer counseling and juvenile delinquent behavior among students in St. Kizito High School Namugongo ($r(133) = (b = 0.556, p = 0.000 < 0.05)$).

Conclusion:

there is no significant relationship between school guidance counseling ($r(132) = (b = 0.107, p = 0.165 > 0.05)$), family therapy counseling ($r(133) = (b = -.073, p = 0.324 > 0.05)$) and juvenile delinquent behavior among students in St Kizito High School Namugongo.

Recommendation :

That the government should ensure that each school has a qualified counselor or counselors to provide guidance and counseling services to students at school. Parents of high school students should create more time with their children and always offer family therapy counseling

Keywords: Counseling Services, Juvenile Delinquent Behaviors, Secondary School, St. Kizito High School, Submitted: 2023-03-10 Accepted: 2023-05-20

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1. Background of the Study:

Globally, counseling services are essential elements in the discipline management of people in

all societies. It could be difficult for any society to function well without the exercise of discipline. Thus, counseling services are applied to school-going children so that their behavior can be managed and directed to make them good people as they grow up (Burks and Steffler, 2009). Counseling as a movement was started in America at the beginning of the 20th Century as a reaction to the change process in an industrialized society. According to Mr. Eduwen (2008), guidance is a process of assisting individuals to understand themselves and their environment, while Eduwen also defined counseling as the interaction between a trained counselor and a Counselee for the purpose of helping the Counselee to cope with life problems. This explains why developed countries applied guidance and counseling services in schools. Guidance and counseling services were set up within the Department of Education in September 1968 when the recommendations made by Louis, a consultant sent over to Malta by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

World Youth Report on Juvenile Delinquency (2003) as cited by Samedì and Khuluqo, (2016) statistical data indicate that in virtually all parts of the world, rates of youth crime rose in the 1990s and Police criminal statistics, there were more than 11,344 adolescents who allegedly committed offenses in 2003. Juvenile delinquency, known as juvenile offending, or youth crime, is participation in illegal behavior by juveniles. A juvenile is a person who is typically under the age of 18 and commits an act that otherwise would have been charged as a crime if they were an adult.

From January until May 2003, 4,325 adolescents were detained in prison throughout the country (World Youth Report Juvenile Delinquency, 2003). The global rates of youth crime motivate the researcher to assess whether the same rate is experienced in the study area.

According to FBI arrest statistics of juvenile offenders in the US was 77% in 2012, 78% in 2013 and 2014 (Puzzanchera, 2017). The rate of juvenile delinquency cases in the US dropped from 52.3 per 1000 juveniles in 2005 to 28.1 in 2015 (Puzzanchera, 2018). Juvenile rates for all of-

fenses in the US have increased in the last two decades though later they declined by 70% by the year 2016 (OJJDP, 2017). It shows that the percentage of juvenile offenders is decreased by almost 1 percent or less year by year from 2006 to 2012 OJJDP (2017) but in further research as per the National Report 2014, it was predicted that in the 21st century, juveniles will increase. According to the estimation of the Census Bureau, a 10% increase in juveniles will be shown between 2010 and 2035. By the year 2050, Juvenile population will be 16% greater than in 2010 (MSaCP, 2014). There is a decline in the crime rate in the USA yet an increasing crime rate in the study area.

In Greece, A survey of the drop-out problem established a drop-out rate of 6.98% in junior, and research among the population of ex-drug abusers that were attending therapeutic programs of Kethea indicate that factors related to the function of school have negatively affected their school course and high pressure about educational matters and the school environment's denial to deal with the drug problem turn the adolescent towards school failure and in most cases towards school drop out with very high risk to juvenile delinquency in most of the students (Stefanidi and Tsitsas, 2015). Drug abuse is a contributing factor to crime among the youth and if addressed can eliminate this problem even in the study area.

In East Africa, their study by Otieno et al (2014) laments that due to educational and economic challenges, they have to grapple with; parents are left with no time and choice to positively counsel their children, hence delinquent behavior to school-going children; this was further analyzed and they add to say that based on the total commitments the parents have to their day to day activities in their respective workplaces, it seemed that parenting style in no longer adequate as to help these adolescents to conduct themselves right with no risk of involving in the juvenile delinquent behaviors which are on a rise in the era of the 21st century.

In Kenya, Davis, Sindabi, and Chanchiang (2015) in their study, they postulate that young people in secondary schools undergo emotional development, manifesting characteristics of being

erratic, irritable, unpredictable, ambivalent, critical, and rebellious and it concurs with the report of the Head Teacher's Committee on causes of Disturbances/Riots in Public schools which revealed that juvenile delinquent behaviors are manifested at a higher range.

In Uganda, due to the diversity of students and their social, economic, and cultural backgrounds, there have been manifestations of juvenile delinquent behavior in secondary schools at an estimated three fourth (that is over 75%) of the students who become subject to the behaviors involving them in juvenile delinquency and some go further to bigger offensive acts (UNESCO, 2011). Research has revealed that the education sector especially private schools faces the rebellious behavior of young adolescents such as boys who break administration offices to steal examination papers, disobedience and noncompliant with school rules, fight teachers, trespass, bully, class dodge, drug abuse, and many more of the class (Stefanidi and Tsitsas, 2015). Therefore, this turns out to be engaged in the cause factors of juvenile delinquency behaviors amongst the young adolescents.

In Kira Municipality, over 1,000 cases related to delinquent acts have been identified and were being solved in discipline committees of secondary schools. It was highlighted in Ministry of Education reports (2019) that schools like Victory High School have recorded over 25 cases of juvenile delinquency, and Saint Peter High School recorded about 56. It is over double in St. Kizito High School which records about 112 cases relating to juvenile delinquent behaviors and this is confirmed by the report of the head teacher of the high school (Headteacher reports, 2020). To add to the statistics, the head teacher of Saint Kizito reported that for the last three years (2018, 2019, and 2020) over 60% of students expelled were due to misbehaviors that they manifested and these were against the school rules and regulations. In his words, he mentioned that cases are often the results of non-guidance of parents and guardians towards their children during holidays therefore, it was against this background that the researcher looks forward to evaluating the relationship be-

tween counseling services and juvenile delinquent behaviors among secondary school students in St. Kizito High School Namugongo, Wakiso- Uganda.

2. Methodology:

This chapter discusses the research methodology that was used in carrying out the study. It outlines the research design, location of the study, population size, sample size, data collection methods, data collection instruments, validity and reliability of the research instrument, data quality control, data processing, data analysis, and interpretation techniques.

A qualitative approach was employed because there was a need to have oral interviews with the key informants who were the head teacher and deputy head teachers who had an in-depth understanding of the research problem. A quantitative approach was used to obtain numerical data for the study involving the calculation of the central tendencies, mean, standard deviation, and p-value in establishing the contribution of Counseling Services on juvenile delinquent behavior among students of St. Kizito High School Namugongo.

3. Results and discussion:

Study findings revealed that there was a moderate level of counseling services (grand mean of 3.22, standard deviation of 0.799). Having a moderate level of guidance and counseling services at school means that students would not be adequately attended to and this may influence them to develop negative character associated with juvenile delinquent behaviors such as the use of drugs, bullying other students, and breaking school rules. The study findings were supported by the study by Len (2018) where the findings of the study offered new evidence as well that individual or group guidance counselors in schools can improve their services through effective group counseling sessions with students in the classroom, that group counseling can serve as an alternative to individual counseling as it contributes to rational thinking and good behavior in students.

In regard to juvenile delinquent behavior, findings revealed that there was a high level of juvenile delinquent behavior among students of St. Kizito High School (grand mean 3.43, standard deviation of 0.749). This means that cases of breaking or not complying with school rules and regulations are common at St. Kizito High School. The findings of this study are supported by World Youth Report on Juvenile Delinquency (2003) as cited by Samedi and Khuluqo, (2016) which statistical data indicate that in virtually all parts of the world, rates of youth crime rose in the 1990s and Police criminal statistics, there were more than 11,344 adolescents who allegedly committed offenses in 2003. From January until May 2003, 4,325 adolescents were detained in prison throughout the country as.

In terms of the relationship, the $r = -.351^{**}$ and coefficient of determinants, r^2 of 0.123 imply that counseling services reduce juvenile delinquent behavior of the students at St Kizito by 12.3%) whereas the remaining can be associated with other counseling services such as religion (biblical or Quran) Counselling, adolescent counseling, child counseling, that weren't part of this study. The results in relation to students of St. Kizito High School imply that the overall provision of counseling services reduces cases of juvenile delinquent behavior. Thus, students behave well when they receive counseling services, and when they lack school guidance and counseling services, their behavior is adversely affected, or they are likely to experience behavioral problems in St. Kizito High School Namugongo. The study findings are supported by Amusala (2019) who explained that there is a significant contribution of counseling programs in the area of education as a whole. However according to Legislature, (2010) group counseling can enhance the reduction of activities attached to juvenile delinquency possibilities and this concurs with Egbo (2013) who suggest that guidance and counseling in schools is a learning process in which a counselor helps an individual or individuals learn, understand themselves and their environment and be in a position to choose the right type of behaviors that will help them develop, grow, progress, ascend, ma-

ture and step up, educationally, vocationally and psychosocially.

The results indicate that there is a significant relationship between peer counseling and juvenile delinquent behavior among students in St. Kizito High School Namugongo ($r(133) = (b = 0.556, p = 0.000 < 0.05)$). However, there is no significant relationship between school guidance counseling ($r(132) = (b = 0.107, p = 0.165 > 0.05)$), family therapy counseling ($r(133) = (b = -.073, p = 0.324 > 0.05)$) and juvenile delinquent behavior among students in St Kizito High School Namugongo.

Therefore, based on the findings the null hypothesis was rejected in regard to peer counseling ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$) and school guidance and counseling ($p = 0.008 > 0.05$) however, the null hypothesis was maintained in regard to family therapy counseling ($p\text{-Value} > 0.05$) at 5% level of significance.

4. Conclusion:

Based on the study results; there was a moderate level of school guidance and counseling services, family therapy, and peer counseling received by students of St. Kizito High School. This implies that students of Saint Kizito sometimes receive counseling services. The moderate level means that students were not receiving adequate counseling services and this prompted them to participate in juvenile delinquent behaviors such as drug use, theft, violence, and bullying other people.

The results indicate that there is a significant relationship between peer counseling and juvenile delinquent behavior among students in St. Kizito High School Namugongo. However, there is no significant relationship between school guidance counseling, family therapy counseling, and juvenile delinquent behavior among students in St. Kizito High School Namugongo.

The research study was guided by Lombroso's (1876) theory of crime, criminal man and atavism. According to Lombroso's theory, juvenile delinquent behaviors committed by adolescent students result from factors like genes, social (age,

sex) psychological, and the environment where they find themselves. When the environment has criminals, the adolescents' behavior is affected. This theory suggests the best way to deal with juvenile behavior is to first deal with the environment from which delinquents come by providing adequate counseling to those with criminal behaviors.

5. Recommendations:

1. The study recommended that the Ministry of Education through the different District Education Offices should encourage the Head Masters to design a policy on how to offer different counseling services in schools.
2. The Ministry of Health should work hand in hand with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Gender, Labor, and social development to sensitize through media, radio TV, etc. on how to manage delinquent behaviors in school.
3. The study recommended that the administration of Saint Kizito High School should invest more in peer and group counseling services as it was proved that students prefer those types of counseling.
4. The school should put some extracurricular activities in regard to counseling during school assembly
5. The school administration of St. Kizito should make recognition to the role model in order to motivate others.

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7. List of Abbreviations

- FFT: Functional Family Therapy
- G&C: Guidance and Counseling
- HOT: Head of Teacher
- NFT: Narrative Family Therapy
- SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Science Research
- TSC: Teachers Services Commission
- UNESCO: United Nation's Educational Scientific and Cultural Organizations
- USA: United States of America
- WHO: World Health Organization

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